

1. A method for generating a ticket representing a selection of media files to be transferred from a content server to a playback device, comprising:
  - receiving a selection of one or more media files to be transferred to a particular playback device;
  - receiving device identifying information for the particular playback device; and
  - generating a ticket based on the device identifying information, wherein the ticket is redeemable for the one or more selected media files and the media files are formatted so that they can only be rendered on the particular playback device.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising transferring the ticket to a delivery agent that is operable to communicate with the particular playback device.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the delivery agent resides in the particular playback device.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the delivery agent resides on hardware platform and the particular playback device is intermittently connected to the hardware platform.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the device identifying information is obtained from a removable nonvolatile storage medium in the particular playback device.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the device identifying information comprises a unique identification string obtained from the particular playback device.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the unique identification string is a serial number.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the device identifying information comprises a dynamically generated identification string.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the string is generated by a secure number generator in the particular playback device.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein generating a ticket comprises storing a transaction identification number as a key to a record containing identifiers for the one or more selected media files.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein generating a ticket further comprises generating a secure hash of the transaction identification number.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein generating a ticket comprises generating a ticket representing a downloadURL to the content server, the downloadURL including device identifying information.

13. A method for redeeming a ticket representing a selection of media files to be transferred from a content server to a playback device, comprising:

- receiving a ticket redeemable for one or more media files, the ticket including device identifying information for a particular playback device to which the media files are to be transferred;
- receiving device identifying information from the particular playback device to which the media files are to be transferred;
- validating the ticket using the device identifying information included in the ticket and the device identifying information from the particular playback device;
- formatting the one or more selected media files for the particular playback device if the ticket is valid; and
- transferring the one or more formatted media files from the content server to the particular playback device.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

- creating a content license for the one or more selected media files, the content license containing information about what operations can be performed on the one or more

media files after the one or more media files have been transferred to the particular playback device; and

transferring the content license from the content server to the particular playback device.

5

15. The method of claim 13, wherein transferring the one or more formatted media files comprises transferring the one or more formatted media files to a delivery agent that is operable to communicate with the particular playback device.

10

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the delivery agent resides in the particular playback device.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the delivery agent resides on hardware platform and the particular playback device is intermittently connected to the hardware platform.

15

18. The method of claim 13, wherein the ticket includes a transaction identification number and validating the ticket comprises verifying that a transaction identification number corresponding to the transaction identification number contained in the ticket exists on the content server.

20

19. The method of claim 13, wherein the ticket includes a downloadURL with a secure hash value representing the transaction identification number and validating ticket comprises:

25

generating a secure hash value for the transaction identification number; and  
comparing the secure hash with the secure hash included in the ticket.

20. The method of claim 13, wherein validating the ticket comprises determining if the one or more media files already have been successfully retrieved.

30

21. The method of claim 13, wherein validating the ticket comprises verifying that the particular playback device associated with the ticket also is associated with a user

account at a service provider site from which the ticket was issued.

22. A content server for generating a ticket representing a selection of media files to be transferred from a content server to a playback device, comprising:

5 means for receiving a selection of one or more media files to be transferred to a particular playback device;

means for receiving device identifying information for the particular playback device; and

10 means for generating a ticket based on the device identifying information, wherein the ticket is redeemable for the one or more selected media files and the media files are formatted so that they can only be rendered on the particular playback device.

23. A content server for redeeming a ticket representing a selection of media files to be transferred from a content server to a playback device, comprising:

15 means for receiving a ticket redeemable for one or more media files the ticket including device identifying information for a particular playback device to which the media files are to be transferred;

means for receiving device identifying information from the particular playback device to which the media files are to be transferred;

20 means for validating the ticket using the device identifying information included in the ticket and the device identifying information from the particular playback device;

means for formatting the one or more selected media files for the particular playback device if the ticket is valid; and

25 means for transferring the one or more formatted media files from the content server to the particular playback device.